# ST. TERESA ° FÁVILA

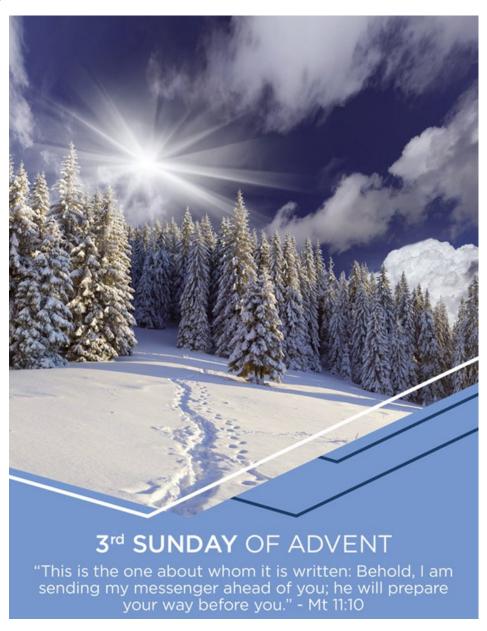
CATHOLIC PARISH ⊕ EST 1889

December 14, 2025

"Truth suffers, but never dies."- St Teresa of Avila

T H E

J O U R N E Y



## Pastor

Reverend Frank John Latzko

#### Address

1037 W. Armitage Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60614

773-528-6650

Weekend Mass Schedule

**Saturday** 6 PM French Mass

**Sunday** 10 AM, 12 PM, 6 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

Wednesday - 8:00AM

Baptism, Reconciliation, Anointing

Please call the office to arrange or email cgioia@stteraparish.org

**Eucharistic Adoration** 

Tuesdays- 6 PM to 7:30 PM

Office Hours

Weekdays: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

# Welcome

"St. Teresa of Avila Parish is an engaged community rooted in the beauty of the

Eucharist and our Catholic faith. We want to make a difference in the lives of the people, especially those who are searching to discover how much God loves them and is calling them to join in the Mission of Christ to live His Gospel. We do so by welcoming people of all backgrounds and cultures in our parish, respecting their desires and questions, crossing borders and learing from those we encounter. You are welcomed to join in the Mission of building bridges and sharing the Good News of Christ."

# Community Ministries

If you want to serve the St. Teresa's community in our liturgies or our planning, there are many opportunities for you!

# RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

teresa.church/rcia

If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, or helping those through that process as a companion.

#### Lectors

teresa.church/lectors

Email eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com for more information.

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

teresa.church/eucharistic-ministers

Email eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com for more information.

# Pastoral Council

teresa.church/pastoral-council

Represent the parish and help advise the pastor in our mission and vision for our community.

#### Finance Council

teresa.church/finance-council

Reviews financial documents and position of the parish and advise pastor and business manager on financial decisions.

Are you interested in making St. Teresa's your spiritual home? Or just want to learn more about our community? Fill out the below form and drop it in the collection basket or join online at **teresa.church/join**.

Name		
Email	Phone	
Address		
Ministries of Interest		

# Welcome

In fulfilling our mission to be "Faith & Spirit. Alive." we invite you to get involved with your family here at St. Teresa of Avila parish.

#### **Outreach Ministries**

We have a variety of opportunites you can join to get involved and help serve our community, the Lincoln park area, and the city of Chicago.

### Welcome the Stranger

Join with parishioners from St. Teresa of Avila, St. Josaphat and others in the Lincoln Park Community to support a refugee family's journey in Chicago. Please fill out this link and we will add you to our updates and emails! https://bit.ly/welcomethestrangerLP. Additionally, if you would like to work directly with a refugee family, you can sign up at any time for a 3 hour Engaging with

Refugees:Cross-Cultural Training https://exodusworldservice.org/register/.

#### Night Ministry

Support our partnership with The Night Ministry by providing sack suppers to the homeless. Participation is easy and safe! For more information and to sign up, please contact Susan Matejka at smatejka@hpschicago.com.

#### Loaves and Fishes Dinner

teresa.church/loaves-and-fishes

Weekly soup kitchen feeding and sitting with people in need of a meal.

#### La Posada Border Ministry

teresa.church/border-ministry

Travel to the border to help and understand those seeking asylum.

#### Food Pantry

teresa.church/food-pantry

Our parish food pantry is a welcoming, dependable source of nutritious food, respect and social contact to the needy of our community.



# Spiritual Ministries

There are many ministries at St. Teresa's that celebrate our faith via small christian communities, serving in our liturgies, and learning more.

#### Women's Spirituality

teresa.church/womens-spirituality

Meets the Last Tuesday of the month to provide a supportive space for prayer and reflection.

#### Men's Spirituality

teresa.church/mens-spirituality

Meets virtually every Tuesdays at 7am to come together and discuss what it means to be a disciple. Email cdeanhockey@gmail. com to get the link and join.

# Bible Studies/Discussion Groups

Throughout the year there are bible studies you can join or maybe a book study with Fr. Frank. Schedules change throughout the year, so stay tuned!

#### Religious Education

teresa.church/religious-education

Whether it's our Montessori based Catechesis of the Good Shephard for children, EDGE Middle School ministry, QUEST High School Ministry, or SPRED Ministry for those with special needs, St. Teresa's has a wide array for programs to meet the needs of our children.

# Communauté Catholique Francophone de Chicago teresa.church/french-community

St. Teresa's is home to a wonderful and vibrant French community.

#### This Sunday's Readings:

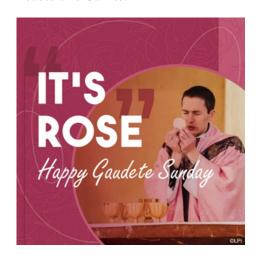
First Reading: Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee. (Isa 35:10)

Psalm: Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146) OR Alleluia.

Second Reading: Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. (Jas 5:7)

Gospel: Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." (Mt 11:4-5)

# Feasts and Saints:



#### Financials: October 2025

FY25 FY24

Basket/Mail In: 13,975 10,782

Give Central: 37,811 39,591

Total: THIS YEAR PREVIOUS YEAR \$51,786 \$50,373

\$1,413

Gospel Meditation: Third Sunday of Advent

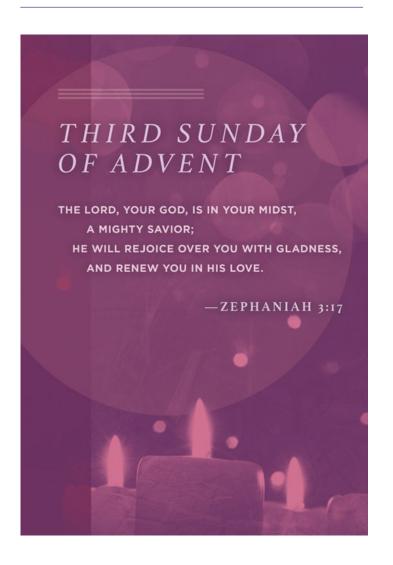
When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy. What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real. This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

- Father John Muir





# Sacrament of Reconciliation | Advent Confession:

Wednesday December 17, 2025 Tuesday December 23, 2025 6:00-7:30pm

## Gaudete Sunday:

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is a Catholic celebration of joy ("Gaudete" means "rejoice" in Latin) as the Christmas season nears, signaling that Christ's coming is imminent, a time to find inner peace and joy in God's promise despite life's difficulties, often marked by the use of rose-colored vestments and candles to signify this hopeful gladness. It's a call to rejoice in the Lord's nearness, drawing from St. Paul's exhortations in Philippians, and focusing on the eternal hope Jesus offers, shifting from penitential preparation to joyful anticipation.

# Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

What We See in the Desert

I've always wanted to see a real desert.

I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I've never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I'm curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it's because the desert doesn't have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don't desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert.

Why? What are we expecting to see?

If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be.

So go.

# Stewardship Reflections:

The Season That Gives Back

I don't have anything left to give.

You can't pour from an empty cup.

All I do is give. Who is giving to me?

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I'm sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that's parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.



# The Christmas tradition of Simbang Gabi:

It started in 1587, when the crowds at Mass on the days before Christmas were overflowing from the church, so the prior of the San Agustin Acolman Convent, on the island of Luzon, Philippines, asked the pope's permission to hold the services outdoors. The request was granted, and Simbang Gabi became a Filipino spiritual tradition of Mass on each of the nine days before Christmas.

In the Philippines, Simbang Gabi novena Masses were celebrated at dawn, when the roosters crow, hence the name Misa de Gallo or "Mass of the rooster." This was done for very practical reasons—Filipinos then were farmers or fishers who either began or ended their day at dawn.

The missionaries decided they could gather all the people together to implant in their hearts and minds the teachings of the Catholic faith while integrating Filipino customs and traditions. Thus, at the first light of dawn, church bells rang, and a band played traditional Christmas carols throughout the town. Families would walk or ride their carabao (water buffalo) sleds to their local church. After Mass the celebration continued with a variety of delicacies served in the churchyard, such as bibingka (rice cakes), puto bumbong (sticky rice), roasted corn cobs, and ginger tea.

The tradition of Simbang Gabi continues in the United States, but it has been altered a bit from its original form. Most novena Masses are held indoors in the evening, in addition, not all parishes celebrate the full nine days. Sometimes neighboring parishes each take one of the nine nights, and people go from church to church for the novena.

Simbang Gabi Masses always have Filipino touches. Many parishes have families process in with the traditional star lanterns fashioned of bamboo and paper, symbolizing that we are preparing our hearts and homes to welcome and receive Christ, our Light. These parols can also be seen in any Filipino home during the Advent season. There is usually a Filipino cloth to cover the altar, an offering of the Filipino national flower, sambaguita, which is like sweet jasmine, as well as a basket of fruit at the presentation of the gifts. Even in the United States, no Filipino liturgical celebration is complete without a reception. Isure, there will always be enough food for all to enjoy.

#### From Charisse:

It has been awhile since I have written for the bulletin!

The parish has been really busy over the past few months as you all know but it has not only been busy for me but incredibly rewarding. I'm so grateful and honored that this is what I get to do everyday! I love the the fall months with all the of the special events and festivities and I especially love the crunch time and being able to work with our wonderful volunteer team for Together in Joy! This year's gala was such a beautiful evening and I was so happy that my youngest daughter Delani came as my date.

Christmas also is such a very special time at the parish.

I love decorating the rectory, and celebrating all of the special things that happen in the month of December, especially the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Another one of my absolute favorite is the day we go to the Little Sisters of the Poor to deliver all of the gifts to their residents that are so thoughfully and generously made possible by YOU!

It is a day filled with joy and also very good reminder to me that life is precious, people are precious and I'm so thankful to be a part of it.

Many of you know my father passed away this past May and this year's birthday's, holidays, milestones and celebrations are all the "first" without him. Some of the highlights were my daughter Mackenzie graduating from Bradley University and is now officially working as a registered nurse, the baby of our entire family, Delani turned 21 and is doing excellent in her third year of nursing school and our son Michael graduating from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a degree in construction management / engineering just this week! All have been so joyful but there is an ache in my heart that is missing him. If you know me you know that my family is everything to me especially my husband and children.

I pray for health and peace for my family as well as you and yours today and always.

I wish you a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you for letting me a part of your life..... Charisse XO

#### Join Us For Hospitality:

#### After the 10am and 6pm Mass

This is a wonderful way to catch up and visit with fellow parishioners as well as meeting new ones and getting to know each other! If you would be interested in hosting a Sunday after the 10am Mass here is the link to sign up-

https://signup.com/go/uwfqUZN

# FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

THE ST. TERESA FOOD PANTRY
CONTINUES TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE
EXTRAORDINARY FOOD CHOICES PROVIDED
WEEKLY BY THE GREATER CHICAGO
FOOD DEPOSITORY. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE
TO BE IN NEED OF HEARTY SOUPS
AND WRAPPED TOILET PAPER.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

#### Welcome Committee:

The Parish Council is excited to announce the formation of a new Welcoming Committee here at St Teresa of Avila. We are looking for 2-3 people to help lead this initiative, and help us build a team of welcome volunteers for each mass. The task is simple, we need amazing volunteers that will greet all parishioners before mass with a friendly smile, a nice "hello", and possibly help them find a seat! You may think we already do this, but it's not consistent. Imagine walking into someone's house and not being welcomed when you walk in the door, a place of business, or a restaurant. First impressions can be lasting impressions.

Please consider joining this committee because it'll be fun and rewarding! If interested, please reach out to Jessica Marx @ chicago2381@hotmail.com.

#### Loaves and Fishes:

The Loaves & Fishes ministry has been inviting guests indoors to enjoy their meal on Friday evenings.

We need volunteers to greet our guests, serve them, and clean tables. Volunteers are needed on Friday evenings from 3:30 to 6:00. If you cannot arrive by 3:30, just let us know when you sign up. You can sign up here - https://signup.com/go/rBJiFSK.

# Calling All Those Who Enjoy Cooking!

Calling All Those Who Enjoy Cooking! Hearing the call to serve those less fortunate? Always wanted to (learn to) cook for a crowd? Our Loaves and Fishes Ministry is seeking cooks (and helpers) to prepare a warm dinner for the elderly and homeless in our area, served each Friday afternoon. For a 3-6 hour commitment, you'll meet a wonderful group of people to work with, share kitchen tips and feel good about helping those in need. For more info, please contact Charisse Gioia

cgioia@stteresaparish.org

Thank you



#### HELLO ST TERESA COMMUNITY

OUR WEEKLY FRIDAY LOAVES AND FISHES MEAL OFFERING HAS GROWN AND IS NOW AVERAGING OVER 100 GULSTS PER WEEK. THIS INCLUDES SENIOR CITIZENS, GUESTS WHO LIVE IN TRANSITIONIAL HOUSING OR ARE HONELESS AND IMMIGRANITS, ALL IN NEED OF A NUTRITIOUS MEAL. THANKS TO ALL OF THE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP TO PREPARE AND THEN SERVE THE MEAL. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING WITH OUR LOAVES AND FISHES NEAL SERVICE REACH OUT TO STEVE SIBON (630-851-3348, SISBON@AOL.COM).

AS THE COOLER WEATHER BEGINS TO SETTLE III, OUR LOAVES AND FISHES GUESTS ARE BEGINNING TO ASK ABOUT WHITER COATS. WE ALL KNOW HOW CRITICAL IT IS TO HAVE A WARM CLOTHING FOR CHICAGO'S COLD WINTER SEASON. WE WILL USE SOME OF THE FUNDS GENEROUSLY DONATED TO L&F TO PURCHASE WARM GLOVES AND SOCKS FOR OUR GUESTS. HOWEVER, THE MOST URGENT NEED NOW IS FOR NEW OR GENTLY WORN WARM WINTER COATS. MEN'S LARGE AND EXTRA LARGE COATS ARE THE GREATEST HEED. WE WILL BE COLLECTING COATS OVER THE COMING WEEKS FOR OUR GUESTS SO PLEASE HAVE A LOOK IN YOUR CLOSETS AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY COATS THAT YOU CAN SPARE FOR OUR GUESTS.

IN JOHN 21 15:19, JESUS ASKS PETER 3 TIMES IF HE LOVES HIM, PETER RESPONDS THAT YES HE LOVES HIM, AND EACH TIME JESUS TOLD HIM TO "FEED MY SHEEP". SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED WITH A NUTRITIOUS MEAL AND WARM WINTER CLOTHING IS WHAT OUR LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY IS ALL ABOUT. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

#### **Mass Intentions**

10AM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

12 PM - Joyce Jaszczor (D)

6 PM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

# Let Us Pray For: The Sick, The Deceased and Peace in Our World:

We pray for those who suffers from illness of mind or body.

We pray for those who have passed away.

We pray for peace in our city and around the world.

We pray for the intentions on our prayer cards.

We pray for survivors and perpetrators

of sexual abuse.



#### Mass Schedule

Sunday 12/21 10am- Fr. Udovic Sunday 12/21 12pm- Fr. Frank Sunday 12/21 6pm- Fr. Frank

#### Prayer for Advent - New Growth

Dear God,

Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates. Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts" and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted." You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart. Amen.

# Sunday Funday December 14th:

**Today is - Roast Chestnuts Day and Monkey Day** 

1902- The Commercial Pacific Cable Company laid the first Pacific telegraph cable from San Francisco to Honolulu.

1903- The Wright brothers made their first attempt to fly with the Wright Flyer at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. They got it to work on December 17th.

1962- NASA's Mariner 2 became the first spacecraft to fly by Venus.

The 1928 classic The Passion of Joan of Arc was panned by the French government that commissioned it and a fire destroyed the negative, the original cut of the movie was thought to be lost forever, but a copy was found in 1981.

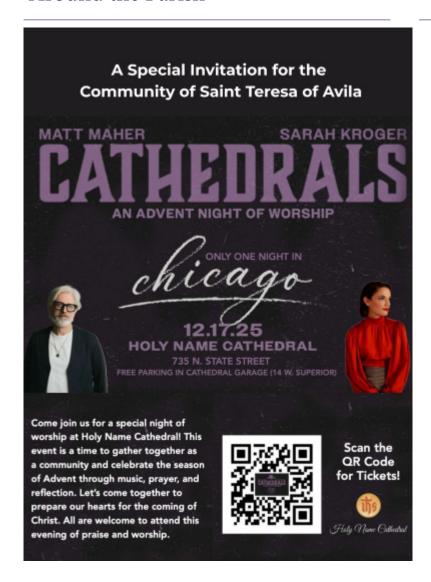
# "What is St. Joan of Arc's favorite Christmas carol?"



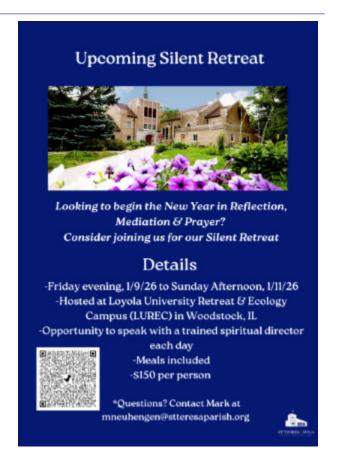
"O, Holy Knight!"



St. Joan of Arc led the French to victory in 1429, a valiant soldier for Jesus. (Being French, she probably preferred French carols, though).









## Catholic Q & A:

Saints or Sinners?

#### Question:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

#### Answer:

Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

# Devotions, Explained!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Explained!

The four apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe took place in December 1531, when Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to the Catholic faith, encountered a woman dressed as an Aztec princess on Tepeyac Hill in present-day Mexico City. The woman, who was pregnant, spoke to him in his native language. She identified herself as the Mother of God.

Over the next four apparitions, Our Lady requested that Juan Diego implore the local bishop to build a church on the hill, and performed miracles to prove her identity. Through one of the miracles, she imprinted her image onto Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak; the tilma bearing that image can still be viewed today at the basilica which now stands on the site of the apparition.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is venerated as the Patroness of the Americas, and she is beloved worldwide as a symbol of motherhood, faith and identity. Her feast day is Dec. 12.

#### Catholic Trivia:

Question: According to tradition, what are the names of Mary's parents?

Answer: St. Anne and St. Joachim.



Parish Contacts Page 12

#### Staff

#### Fr. Frank Latzko

Pastor frfrankjohn56@gmail.com

#### **Charisse Gioia**

Office Manager/Technology Coordinator/ Bulletin

cgioia@stteresaparish.org

Charisse is repsonsible for managing the parish office as well producing our weekly bulletin and emails.

Charisse has been with the parish since 2019.

#### **Mark Neuhengen**

Director of Evangelization and Parish Mission mneuhengen@stteresaparish.org

Mark is responsible for our Parish Evangelization and Ministry. Mark is a graduate from Loyola University Chicago , holds a masters in theology and has been with the parish since 2019.

#### **Barbara McHugh**

Religious Education bmchugh@stteresaparish.org

Barb is responsible for our Children's Faith formation programs. She and her husband Ed have been parishioners at St. Teresa's for over 30 years.

#### Carol Spalla-Malone

Part-Time Business Manager cspalla@archicago.org

#### **Jason Krumwiede**

Director of Music musicalnut1@mac.com

## **Staff**

Housekeeping Irma Saavedra

#### Sergio Mora

Building & Facilities Manager smora@stteresaparish.org

#### **Parish Council**

Anna Althoff- President annamariealthoff@hotmail.com

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the pastor and represents a cross section of the parish. Together with the Pastor, the PPC helps to craft and carry out the Mission of the Parish.

# **Finance Council**

Don Eldred- Chair

The St. Teresa Finance Council reviews the financial documents and position of the parish and advises the pastor and business manager on financial matters, including the preparation of the annual parish budget.

# **Stewardship Committee**

Dan Summins- Chair dsummins@hotmail.com

The Stewardship Committee's goal is to foster a sense of gratefulness and response of increased sharing of gifts in the parish and communities we seek to support. We do this by creating, encouraging and communicating ideas and programs that help parishioners recognize and share their gifts.

# **Contributing to the Bulletin**

Past bulletins and guidelines for submitting to the bulletin are available on our website at: www.teresa.church/bulletins

# **How to Report Sexual Abuse**

To report an allegation of sexual abuse and/or neglect of minors, contact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
Hotline at 800.25.ABUSE (800.252.2873) and/or contact your local police department.

You can also contact the Office of Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY) at 312.534.5254.